

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number : 2002-079693

(43)Date of publication of application : 19.03.2002

(51)Int.Cl.

B41J 2/18
B41J 2/185
B41J 2/01
B41J 2/165

(21)Application number : 2000-293230

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(22)Date of filing : 27.09.2000

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(30)Priority

Priority number : 11276281

Priority date : 29.09.1999

Priority country : JP

2000204564

06.07.2000

JP

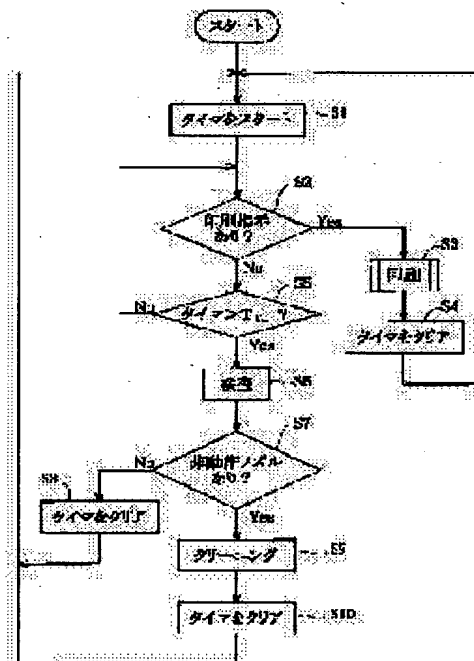
(54) METHOD OF INSPECTING NOZZLE BEFORE CLEANING OF NOZZLE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To prevent clogging by cleaning by a method wherein non-cleaning can be selected when there is not a nozzle having the clogging.

SOLUTION: In an automatic periodic cleaning during non-use time period of a printer, presence or absence of an ink drop ejected from each nozzle is inspected in advance of the cleaning to determine that each nozzle is an operable nozzle available of ejecting an ink drop or an inoperable nozzle unavailable of ejecting an ink drop.

Only when an inoperable nozzle is detected, the cleaning of the nozzle is executed.



LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination]

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

[Date of registration]

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision
of rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's
decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

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